

Embodied in the First Amendment to the Constitution is a citizen's right to freedom of expression. However, if all the licenses for broadcast are held by a very few entities, it seems unlikely that popular -- let alone unpopular -- views will be aired. The creation or countenancing of media monopoly will ultimately serve to weaken our democracy.

While the veracity or popularity of political material may be difficult to judge, at one time at least, it was necessary for a broadcasting station to make available "equal time" to opposing parties or candidates. If Sinclair Broadcasting Corporation goes ahead with its plans to air a documentary film with obviously anti-Kerry (sadly not at least pro-Bush) sentiment, then they should by that doctrine be expected to air an equal quantity of pro-Kerry material.

A failure to follow this principle of fairness -- if not blatantly illegal -- is at least a form of propaganda. That -- being inimical to democracy -- should not be allowed within it. Therefore, I request that you critically review requests by Sinclair to renew any of its broadcasting licenses, and consider denying them if credible evidence of undemocratic activities is uncovered.